

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9783

INFO USUN NEW YORK 792

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 1176

DEPT PASS TO ALL NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, CU, CE

SUBJ: REPORT ON SPECIAL MEETING OF NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTERS  
IN NEW YORK

1. MARCH 12 LOCAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER CARRIED BANNER HEADLINE THAT SRI LANKA IS CALLING A SPECIAL NON-ALIGNED SESSION IN NEW YORK. ACCORDING TO REPORT, NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL MEET PRIOR TO UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT (SSOD) SCHEDULED TO START MAY 23. PURPOSE OF THE NON-ALIGNED MEETING WILL BE TO SEEK NON-ALIGNED AGREEMENT ON POSITIONS REACHED AT NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING IN KABUL MAY 6-10.

2. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) DIRECTOR OF NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE DIVISION N.M.M.I. HUSSAIN TOLD POL OFFICER THAT PRESS REPORT WAS PREMATURE AND INDICATED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER MAY HAVE LEAKED IT. WHILE DECLINING TO CONFIRM PRESS REPORT, HUSSAIN SAID IN CONFIDENCE THAT THERE ARE SOME MOVES GOING ON FOR A PRE-SSOD MEETING OF NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTERS SINCE MANY OF THEM WILL BE IN NEW YORK FOR THE SSOD. HE VERIFIED  
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PURPOSE OF MEETING AS THAT REPORTED IN PRESS.

3. IN DISCUSSION OF TRENDS WITHIN NAM, HUSSAIN EXPRESSED OPINION THAT THERE WILL BE INCREASING MODERATION, EXCEPT POSSIBLY ON THE AFRICAN ISSUES. HUSSAIN DOES NOT FORESEE RADICALIZATION OF THE NAM AFTER CUBA ASSUMES CHAIRMANDHIP. HE POINTED TO CUBAN MODERATION AT THE NACC MEETING IN NEW

DELHI LAST YEAR AS AN INDICATION. ALTHOUGH HE DOES NOT RULE OUT THE RADICAL FRINGE TRYING TO GAIN CONTROL OF THE MOVEMENT WHEN CUBA TAKES OVER, HE SEES THE MODERATION OF THE MAJORITY OF THE NAM COUNTRIES WORKING AS A CONSTRAINT. CUBA, HE OPINED, IN ASSUMING THE CHAIRMANSHIP AND THE PRESTIGE THAT GOES WITH IT WILL ALSO BE ASSUMING CONSTRAINTS ON ITS FREEDOM OF UNILATERAL ACTIONS. MOREOVER, HE DOES NOT BELIEVE CUBA WOULD WANT TO CREATE A SITUATION IN THE NAM THAT CONCEIVABLY WOULD LEAD TO COMPLETE DISENCHANTMENT OF THE NON RADICALS AND POSSIBLE DISSOLUTION OF THE MOVEMENT WHILE CUBA IS CHAIRMAN.

4. HUSSAIN SAID THAT SRI LANKA WILL BE RELIEVED TO BE OUT OF THE CHAIR. HE EXPECTS SRI LANKA ONCE FREE OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP'S CONSTRAINTS TO WORK EVEN MORE ACTIVELY FOR MODERATE POSITIONS, ALTHOUGH HE REALIZES THAT SRI LANKA WILL HAVE CONSIDERABLY LESS INFLUENCE AS AN ORDINARY MEMBER. SRI LANKA WILL CONTINUE AS A MEMBER OF THE NACC BY VIRTUE OF HAVING BEEN CHAIRMAN. PRECISELY WHAT POSITIONS SRI LANKA WILL TAKE AND HOW ACTIVELY IT WILL PURSUE THOSE INTERESTS WILL BE DICTATED BY WHAT GOVERNMENT POLICY IS AT ANY GIVEN TIME. AT THE MOMENT, HE SAID, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS CARRY THE HEAVIEST WEIGHT IN FOREIGN POLICY DECISIONS.

5. MFA HAS NOT YET RECEIVED FROM NEW YORK DRAFT AGENDA FOR KABUL MEETING. HUSSAIN EXPECTS THAT THERE WILL BE ATTEMPTS AS IN THE PAST TO AVOID CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECTS, BUT THAT AFRICAN

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ISSUES WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE RAISED AND DEBATED.

6. COMMENT: HUSSAIN, AN EXTREMELY SOFT-SPOKEN, CAUTIOUS OFFICIAL, TENDS TO DOWN-PLAY CONTROVERSY AND IS GIVEN TO BANAL OBSERVATIONS. THIS MAY ACCOUNT FOR HIS OPTIMISTIC ASSESSMENT OF CUBA'S FUTURE MODERATION.

WRIGGINS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT RPT NOT PASSED NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014